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Dale Hollow Lake

LakeCasts

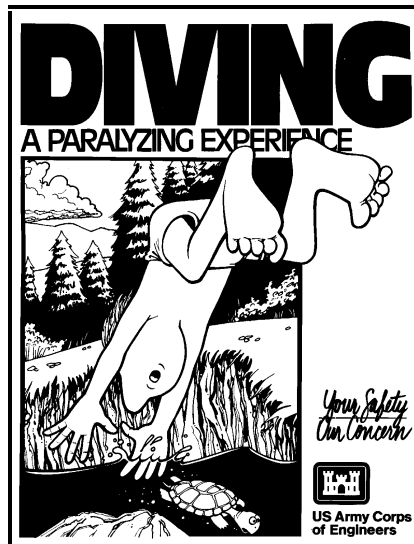
Spring/Summer 2001

Corps Moves to Repair Damaged Forests

Pine-beetle infested pine forests within the Lillydale and Willow Grove campgrounds at Dale Hollow Lake have been removed to make way for healthy hardwood replacements, according to Ronnie D. Smith, Dale Hollow Lake Resource Manager.

The southern pine beetle has ravaged the mature, non-native loblolly pine forests of the southeastern states in epidemic proportions. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers removed vast numbers of dead trees in these parks as a matter of safety and environmental stewardship.

Southern pine beetles have always been present, however the current severe outbreak is due to several warm winters together with several years of drought. The beetles bore directly through the bark and the females construct long, winding, S-shaped tunnels that eventually girdle the tree, stopping the flow of water and nutrients. The pine trees are damaged beyond their ability to survive, and the infested trees fade to



yellow and then bright reddish brown before losing their needles and dying. Additional information about southern pine beetles can be accessed on the Internet at: "www.lm.usace.army.mil/pao/background/pinebeetle."

Nearly all of the pine trees throughout Lillydale and Willow Grove Campgrounds were dead after the infestation had quickly spread. Limbs from the dead trees were falling onto the campsites in these popular campgrounds, and all of these dead and dying trees were removed to provide for the safety of Dale Hollow Lake campers.

Now that all of the infested pine trees have been removed from Lillydale and Willow Grove Campgrounds, the

staff of Dale Hollow Lake will begin a tree restoration plan which includes planting a mix of healthy hardwood trees native to this region.

Due to the overwhelming cost of both acquiring and replanting the hundreds of trees in these two areas, Dale Hollow Lake urgently needs the support and involvement of communities from throughout this regional area to help restore these two devastated campgrounds. The greatest immediate need is the donation of native hardwood nursery-stock trees. Public-spirited volunteers will also be needed to help in cleanup efforts and assist with the planting of new trees this coming spring and fall planting seasons.

If you or your business would



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like to be a part of this important restoration effort, contact the Dale Hollow Lake Resource Manager's Office at 931-243-3136, Monday – Friday, 7 am - 4 pm.

Facilities Closed by Pine Beetle Damage

Due to the need for re-seeding, landscaping, and other renovations, Lillydale Campground will be closed for the 2001 recreation season. The campground will be re-opened on April 15, 2002. Although the effects of the destruction of the Lillydale pine forest by the southern pine beetles was unexpected, this situation has also provided an opportunity for the campground facilities to be upgraded and modernized for future public enjoyment.

Big Goat Island, Little Goat Island, and State Line Point primitive campsites will also be closed during the 2001 recreation season, due to potential hazards from falling trees as a result of the southern pine beetle infestation.

Primitive Camping Program Update

During 2001, Dale Hollow Lake will enter the second year of the revised primitive camping program. The restructuring of this popular camping program was initiated last year due to ongoing problems of overuse and impacts to shoreline areas not designated as

camping areas. To camp at one of the primitive areas on Dale Hollow Lake, you must call the Resource Manager's Office to obtain a numbered Primitive Camping Permit (if you obtained a primitive camping permit last year, you may use that same primitive camping permit number this year).

A primitive camping registration confirmation must be obtained for each camping visit. Those who fail to do so will be camping *illegally* and subject to a citation and removal from the site. A camping registration can be made up to 60 days in advance.

Since there are a very limited number of designated primitive campsites on Dale Hollow Lake, houseboats should *not* use these sites for moorage unless the occupants are actually camping and a primitive camping permit has been obtained for that site.

To obtain further information and requirements, or to register for a primitive camping permit for the upcoming recreation season, call the Dale Hollow Lake Resource Manager's Office at (931) 243-3136 Monday through Friday, 7 am until 4pm, Central Standard Time.

NRRS Update

The National Recreation Reservation Service has entered its third year of operation. During their first year of operation, the NRRS took a total of 380,000 advanced reservations in 1999, and

during 2000 that number increased to 433,000 reservations. The NRRS ReserveUSA, Internet program is expected to be enhanced with new improvements in 2001. For your reservation, call toll-free, 1-877-444-6777, or visit the NRRS website at ReserveUSA.com.

The Dale Hollow LakeWatch Needs You!

Dale Hollow Lake, known for crystal clear waters and pristine natural beauty, is now threatened by its own popularity, as a home-building boom on private lands adjacent to Dale Hollow Lake shorelines begins to impact the protected public property within the government boundary lines.

The lake is surrounded by 620 miles of lush, hardwood forests that grow to the water edge and give the lake its rustic, panoramic appeal. In recent years, however, unauthorized activities within the public property boundary lines of the lake have marred and threatened to forever change the unspoiled character of the Dale Hollow Lake shoreline.

In certain areas of the lake, fishermen and boaters who glance at the familiar, rolling hills above the waters of Dale Hollow Lake are now gazing upon an unfamiliar sight - areas where trees on public land have been illegally clear-cut by an adjacent property owner, creating a scar on the landscape of the shoreline and detracting from the natural beauty of the Dale Hollow shoreline.

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Adjacent landowners who intentionally destroy public property simply to improve their view affect more than the natural beauty of the lake through these selfish actions. The presence of the natural shoreline is necessary in maintaining the water quality of Dale Hollow Lake. The natural vegetation along the shoreline acts as a buffer to help purify run-off water and to control erosion along the hillside. The cities of Byrdstown and Celina depend on Dale Hollow Lake for their drinking water.

Much of the popularity of the lake for outdoor recreation is due to its spectacular scenery, and destroying the shoreline makes it less attractive, which will in turn decrease the number of visitors to Dale Hollow Lake. Each year outdoor recreation contributes an estimated 120 million dollars to the area's economy.

Individuals who intentionally cut trees in this important and sensitive "buffer zone" on government property are committing a criminal act of

vandalism, and may be required to appear before a Federal Magistrate and ordered to pay substantial amounts of restitution for the damages.

Citizens who love Dale Hollow can help stop this degradation of our lake scenery. Although the Corps of Engineers will continuously inspect boundary lines and look for acts of vandalism, their most important asset could be the eyes and ears of the general public. Community members and lake visitors are invited to help protect this important natural resource by participating in the Lake Watch program. Under this program, volunteers from throughout the lake area can provide timely assistance by calling the Corps of Engineers Resource Office if they hear a chainsaw or bulldozer at work in an area that they feel is government property.

Reports of violations of illegal trash dumping, or the building of unauthorized roadways into government property are also encouraged. The identity of all participants in the Lake Watch program will be kept confidential.

Concerned citizens and volunteers who are interested in helping to protect the rolling hills above Dale Hollow Lake can call (931) 243-3136, Monday - Friday, 7:00 am to 4:00 PM, CST to sign up as a member of the Dale Hollow Lake Watch.

New Size Limits Now In Effect

Anglers should note the changes in size limits on Smallmouth Bass that became law on March 1, 2000. On Dale Hollow Lake, Smallmouth Bass can no longer be kept between 16 and 21 inches in length. Biologists recommended this change to improve Dale Hollow's Smallmouth population. One Smallmouth can be kept below 16 inches and one can be kept above 21 inches.

Personal Watercraft and Youth

All personal watercraft users should be aware of new laws that apply to the use of these vessels by youth. All youth 12 years of age and under must wear a lifejacket and must also have someone of age 18 years old, or older, accompanying them when riding a personal watercraft. These new regulations now apply to both Kentucky and Tennessee waters of Dale Hollow Lake. Parents or guardians of youth who do not comply with this new regulation will be subject to a Citation from water patrol enforcement officers.



Partnering for Trail Restoration

Sooner or later, most things that get a lot of use will eventually need some maintenance work. It's true with your automobile, and it applies to park trails as well. The Red Oak Ridge Trail, Dale Hollow Lake's 18-mile equestrian trail, is no exception. The maintenance needs of extensive trails such as this equestrian trail are challenging, since needed repairs can be numerous, expensive, and spread out over a large area.

The Red Oak Ridge Equestrian Trail, located near the Tennessee/Kentucky border, continues to grow in popularity with horseback riders and hikers from the region. This meandering horse trail offers spectacular views of Dale Hollow Lake and even

primitive camping at certain areas. Last year Dale Hollow Lake's Red Oak Ridge Trail was selected from among 40 projects requesting federal assistance from the Recreation Trails Program (RTP). Additional funding for the Red Oak Ridge Trail project was provided through a partnering effort with the Clay County government and the State of Tennessee.

The final grant award to the Corps of Engineers and Clay County for the Red Oak Ridge Trail was \$43,764. These funds will be utilized for trail stabilization, drainage, erosion control and signage.

By utilizing the RTP, the partnering efforts of Dale Hollow Lake, Clay County, and the State of Tennessee have resulted in a funding initiative that will assure

that the Red Oak Ridge Trail will remain one of Tennessee's most beautiful -and safest- equestrian trails.

Short Takes

** Title 36, the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations was updated last year in 2000. If you would like an updated copy, please check with the Park Attendant.

** The next time that you're surfing the Internet, stop by and visit the new Dale Hollow Lake web site at:

["rtn.usace.army.mil/op/DAI/rec/"](http://rtn.usace.army.mil/op/DAI/rec/)

** During the annual mid-winter eagle count that was conducted on January 12, 2001, a total of 91 mature and immature eagles were spotted by park rangers and state wildlife officers on Dale Hollow Lake.

**Resource Managers Office
Dale Hollow Lake
5050 Dale Hollow Dam Road
Celina, TN 38551-9708**